

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUITE 2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301
(202) 225-6375
<http://science.house.gov>

April 13, 2009

Dr. Richard A. Birdsey
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
11 Campus Blvd., Ste 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Dear Dr. Birdsey:

The House Committee on Science and Technology will hold a hearing entitled "*Monitoring, Measurement and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions II: The Role of Federal and Academic Research and Monitoring Programs*" on April 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building. I am writing to formally invite you to testify at this hearing.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine existing and planned federal programs focused on monitoring, measuring, and verifying sources and sinks of greenhouse gases, their atmospheric chemistry and their impacts on earth's climate. The Committee will examine both top-down and bottom-up methods for tracking greenhouse gases including: ground-based, tropospheric, and space-based monitoring systems as well as facility-based monitoring systems and inventory and reporting methods.

The Committee seeks to understand how the existing and planned federal measurement and monitoring systems can be utilized to gain greater understanding of sources and sinks of greenhouse gases and to support research on greenhouse gases, evaluation of national and international greenhouse gas mitigation policies, and development of projections of regional climate impacts to inform development and implementation of adaptation strategies. The Committee also seeks to identify the key requirements that need to be addressed in developing a scientifically and operationally robust system for verifying compliance with potential climate agreements.

In your testimony, please discuss the efforts of the Carbon Cycle Scientific Steering Group and Carbon Cycle Interagency Working Group to coordinate the federal carbon cycling research and monitoring programs and the status of the research underway through this program.

In addition, please address the following specific issues:

- 1) Describe the purpose and current status of the Forest Service inventory and monitoring programs and how the information gathered through them can be used to define reliable

baselines of greenhouse gas fluxes from natural or managed ecosystems that may become part of a program to encourage carbon sequestration or other ecosystem-based greenhouse gas mitigation strategies (e.g. a program of offsets within a cap-and-trade program).

- 2) What additional resources, if any, are required to develop and sustain a robust carbon monitoring system to support verification of a greenhouse gas mitigation program? Are these needs the same if the primary purpose of the network remains focused on carbon cycle research? Please identify gaps that need to be filled to provide a robust national monitoring and research program for greenhouse gases.
- 3) Please discuss the efforts of the Carbon Cycle Scientific Steering Group and Carbon Cycle Interagency Working Group to coordinate the federal carbon cycling research and monitoring programs and the status of the research underway through this program. How does cooperation among the federal agencies occur now with respect to these monitoring and research programs? Do the interagency committees provide sufficient support for these programs or is something additional needed to facilitate greater collaboration to ensure the integrity of these research and monitoring programs?

In order to allow sufficient time for questions at the hearing, you should highlight the most significant points of your testimony in an oral presentation of no more than five minutes. Your written statement may be as extensive as you wish and will be included in the hearing record in its entirety. Oral statements and answers to questions will be printed as part of the record of the hearing; only technical, grammatical, and typographical errors will be corrected.

Witnesses testifying before the Committee on Science and Technology must observe the procedures governing witness testimony. These procedures are described on the attached page. This includes the disclosure of financial interests relevant to the subject matter of the witness testimony. Please email your testimony, biography, and disclosure form to Stacey Steep at stacey.steep@mail.house.gov as soon as it is available, but not less than 48 hours before the hearing. Seventy-five copies of your testimony must also be hand delivered to the Committee's main office, room 2321 Rayburn, 48 hours before the hearing. Due to increased security measures in place at House office buildings, you will need to contact Ms. Steep to arrange for the delivery of your testimony. We recommend that you attach your biography to the testimony and make double-sided copies of the document to conserve paper.

If you have any questions concerning your appearance, please contact Jean Fruci, Michelle Dallafior or Stacey Steep of the House Committee on Science and Technology at 202-225-8844. I look forward to your participation in the hearing.

Sincerely,



BART GORDON
Chairman

Attachments

MEMORANDUM

TO: WITNESSES APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DURING THE 111th CONGRESS

FROM: COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RE: RULES GOVERNING APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

The following procedures govern witnesses appearing before the Committee on Science and Technology for the 111th Congress:

1. The Rules of the Committee require you to complete the attached **Witness Financial Disclosure Form** to disclose any financial interests which are relevant to the subject matter of your testimony or the hearing at which you are testifying. The source and the amount of any financial interest must be disclosed. Should you need extra space, please provide additional information on a separate sheet of paper.
2. You must submit to the Committee a **draft copy of your written testimony no less than 72 hours**, excluding weekends and Federal holidays, before you are to testify.
3. **No less than 48 hours**, excluding weekends and Federal holidays, before you are to testify, you must also submit to the Committee:
 - An **electronic copy of your final written testimony**, including any supporting graphs, charts, or slideshows. This electronic version will be posted on the Committee website, and will be accessible by the public.
 - **Seventy-five (75) hard copies of your final written testimony**, including any supporting graphs, charts, or materials;
 - An **electronic copy of a short narrative biography**;
 - **Seventy-five (75) hard copies of a short narrative biography**;
 - **Two (2) hard copies of your Curriculum Vitae**; and

Enclosure 1

- **Two (2) hard copies of your completed Witness Financial Disclosure Form.**

5. You must notify the Committee **no later than 48 hours** before you are to testify **if you want to use any multimedia capabilities** as provided by the hearing room, and must provide all material to be presented in this fashion in hard copy form to the Committee. Please see *Enclosure 2* for further explanation of hearing room capabilities.

If you are using any of the room's multimedia capabilities, you or your designee **must arrive no less than 30 minutes before the designated start time of the hearing** to allow for set-up. Failure to do so may result in the multimedia portion of the presentation being canceled.

6. Transcripts of hearings conducted by the Committee shall be published in substantially verbatim form, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections.

NOTE: Section 210 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 applies the rights and protections covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to the United States Congress. Accordingly, the Committee on Science and Technology strives to accommodate / meet the needs of those requiring special assistance. If you need special accommodation or require materials in alternative formats, please contact the Committee on Science and Technology in advance of the scheduled event (3 days requested) by telephone at (202) 225-6375, by facsimile at (202) 225-3895, or TTY (202) 226-4410.

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
HEARING ROOM CAPABILITIES**

I. Equipment Capabilities

- A) PROJECTOR—The hearing room is equipped with a ceiling-mounted projector capable of displaying computer graphics and video feed. The Committee recommends that material to be displayed on the projector be created on a computer set for a video resolution of 800 x 600 pixels in order to best match the resolution of the projector.
- B) DROP DOWN VIDEO SCREEN—The rear of the hearing room is equipped with a large drop down screen viewable from the dais and side seats.
- C) WALL-MOUNTED LCD MONITORS—The hearing room is equipped with two monitors, one on each side of the room, for audience viewing.

II. Computer- Based Presentation

Please bring your presentation on a memory stick (flash drive, thumb drive) or on your personal laptop to the hearing room at least a half-hour before the hearing so that we may help you set it up at the witness table. If you bring your presentation on a laptop, your laptop should be equipped with a functioning graphics port with either a VGA or MAC external connector. Because there are many makes and models of laptops, please be prepared to operate the external graphics port for your own laptop.

III. Audiovisual/Multimedia Capabilities

- A) The room supports the following transmission methods to broadcast committee activities to remote sites:
 - 1. Telephone Conferencing (Audio Only).
 - 2. Live Audio-Video Streaming (Webcasting).
 - 3. Video Teleconferencing.
 - 4. Video and Audio overflow transmission to room 2325 (Ceiling mounted projector).
- B) The room receives House Cable TV feeds for display.
- C) The hearing room equipment can playback and display compact discs and overhead slides (via video camera).

IV. Equipment Support

Questions should be directed to Larry Whittaker, Systems Manager at 202-225-4414.

Committee on Science and Technology U.S. House of Representatives

Witness Financial Disclosure Form

Please complete this form to the best of your ability, and return it to the Committee on Science and Technology at least 48 hours prior to the hearing at which you will testify.

Under Committee Rules, you are required to disclose both the source and amount of any financial interest. However, you need only disclose financial interests relevant to the subject matter of your testimony or the subject matter of the hearing at which you will testify. If you need additional space, please continue your responses on a separate sheet of paper.

Name: _____

Relevant Government or Non-Government Research Grants: _____

Relevant Government Contracts with You or Your Employer: _____

Stock or Stock Options in Relevant Publicly Traded or Privately Held Companies*: _____

Payment or Compensation From Relevant Government or Non-Government Entity: _____

Other: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Individual holdings in managed accounts, such as retirement accounts, need not be disclosed.